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ENVELOPE

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ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

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132035Z APR 00

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUEALGX/SAFE

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TO AIG 6705

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RUEHOR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE//

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CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

MSGID/GENADMIN//

SUBJ/SPECIAL PSYOP ASSESSMENT--DANCING WITH DEATH--PSYOP ASPECTS
/OF THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA//

RMKS/1. INTRODUCTION. THIS SPECIAL PSYOP ASSESSMENT (SPA) EXAMINES PSYOP ASPECTS OF THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BACKGROUND OF THE EPIDEMIC, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE AIDS ISSUE, EFFORTS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DISEASE, AIDS MYTHS AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ATTITUDES TOWARD HIV/AIDS, AND AIDS AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE (SANDF). THIS STUDY IS UNCLASSIFIED TO FACILITATE WIDE CIRCULATION WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN ADVANCE OF THE WORLD AIDS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, ON 9-14 JULY 2000.

2. BACKGROUND.

A. SOUTHERN AFRICA IS THE CENTER OF THE WORLD AIDS EPIDEMIC.

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6/8/2015

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BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, SWAZILAND, AND ZIMBABWE ARE THE WORST-AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, WITH AN ESTIMATED 20 PERCENT OF THEIR POPULATION BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 49 INFECTED WITH HIV. SOUTH AFRICA IS RAPIDLY CATCHING UP TO ITS NEIGHBORS WITH 4 MILLION PEOPLE, 10 PERCENT OF ITS CITIZENS, INFECTED (UP FROM 2 PERCENT IN 1991). SOUTH AFRICA HAS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING RATES OF HIV/AIDS IN THE WORLD WITH AN ESTIMATED 1,600 NEW INFECTIONS EVERY DAY. THE EPIDEMIC IS SPREADING MOST RAPIDLY AMONG YOUNG WOMEN BECAUSE OLDER MEN ARE SEEKING THEM OUT FOR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE FREE OF INFECTION. ANALYSTS PREDICT THAT BY 2005, 6 MILLION SOUTH AFRICANS WILL BE HIV POSITIVE, LIFE EXPECTANCY, WHICH WAS 68 IN 1996, WILL HAVE FALLEN TO 48, AND THERE WILL BE 1 MILLION AIDS ORPHANS.

B. THE REASON SOUTH AFRICAN INFECTION RATES LAG BEHIND OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES IS THAT APARTHEID PASS LAWS CONTROLLED POPULATION MOVEMENT. POCKETS OF INFECTION WERE LOCALIZED AND DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD. RELAXATION OF APARTHEID LAWS IN THE EARLY 1990'S AND THEN THEIR ABOLITION FOLLOWING MAJORITY RULE IN 1994 OPENED THE GATES FOR FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA AND ACROSS ITS BORDERS. HIGHER INFECTION RATES FOLLOWED WHEN THE HOMELANDS WERE ABOLISHED AND PEOPLE FLOCKED TO THE CITIES.

C. KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE HAS THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF HIV INFECTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA. ONE-THIRD OF THE PREGNANT WOMEN WHO VISIT ANTENATAL CLINICS IN THE PROVINCE TEST POSITIVE FOR HIV. ONE REASON FOR THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF INFECTED WOMEN IS THAT KWAZULU NATAL HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MIGRANT LABORERS IN THE COUNTRY. THESE ARE MEN WHOSE HOMES AND FAMILIES ARE IN RURAL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE, BUT POVERTY DRIVES THEM TO WORK IN THE MINES AND FACTORIES NEAR JOHANNESBURG IN GAUTENG PROVINCE. DURING THE WEEK THE MEN PAIR UP WITH YOUNG WOMEN, FORCED BY POVERTY INTO PROSTITUTION, WHO ARE INFECTED WITH HIV. ON THE WEEKENDS THE MEN RETURN HOME WHERE THEY PASS THE DISEASE ON TO THEIR WIVES AND GIRLFRIENDS.

D. BESIDES MIGRANT WORKERS, TRUCK DRIVERS THEIR MECHANICS AND ASSISTANTS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR HELPING SPREAD THE INFECTION THROUGHOUT THE REGION. THESE INDIVIDUALS FREQUENTLY HAVE SEX ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS DURING THEIR TRAVELS, THEN PASS ON DISEASES TO THEIR PARTNERS WHEN THEY RETURN HOME. TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT HAS LAUNCHED THE "TRUCKING AGAINST AIDS" INITIATIVE AIMED AT TEACHING MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS IN THE ROAD-FREIGHT INDUSTRY ABOUT HIV AND AIDS.

3. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND AIDS.

A. MOST AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE REFUSED TO TAKE THE WARNINGS OF WESTERN SCIENTISTS ABOUT THE GRAVITY OF THE AIDS EPIDEMIC SERIOUSLY. IN GENERAL, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SLOW TO RESPOND TO THE REALITY OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DYING OF THIS

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DISEASE. FOLLOWING THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION OF 1994, THE GOVERNMENT OF NELSON MANDELA HAD MANY PRESSING PROBLEMS TO ADDRESS. DEALING WITH HIV/AIDS WAS LEFT TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. UNFORTUNATELY, A SCANDAL DEVELOPED AROUND THE FINANCING OF AN AIDS DRAMA PRESENTATION BY THE MINISTRY. THEN, IN 1997, THE HEALTH MINISTER ANNOUNCED THE DISCOVERY OF VIRODENE P058, AN INEXPENSIVE CURE FOR AIDS. THE MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENT IMMEDIATELY QUESTIONED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VIRODENE P058, AND SUBSEQUENTLY, THE MAIN INGREDIENT OF THE MEDICINE TURNED OUT TO BE A HIGHLY TOXIC INDUSTRIAL SOLVENT THAT IS KNOWN TO CAUSE LIVER DAMAGE AND CANCER IN HUMANS.

B. LATER IN 1997, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT PASSED A LAW DESIGNED TO GIVE ALL PATIENTS, BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE AFFLICTED WITH AIDS, ACCESS TO GENERIC DRUGS TO TREAT THEIR ILLNESSES. A COALITION OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG COMPANIES CHALLENGED THE LAW IN SOUTH AFRICAN COURTS CLAIMING IT CONTRAVENED WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION PATENT INFRINGEMENT RULES. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THREATENED TO INVOKE TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IF THE LAW WAS IMPLEMENTED. THIS TOUGH ACTION PROVOKED AIDS COMMUNITY PROTESTS IN BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA AIMED AT VICE PRESIDENT GORE, THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S POINT MAN ON THE ISSUE, ACCUSING HIM OF BEING INSENSITIVE TO AIDS SUFFERERS AND OF HELPING THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES MAKE EXCESSIVE PROFITS FROM THEIR AIDS DRUGS. IN SEPTEMBER 1999, THE U.S. AND SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE DRUG COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEGUN TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE.

C. BY 1998, THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP WAS FORCED TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE AIDS ISSUE. ON WORLD AIDS DAY ON 1 DECEMBER 1998, PRESIDENT MANDELA SAID, "IT'S THE SILENCE THAT IS LETTING THIS DISEASE SWEEP THROUGH THE COUNTRY. IT IS TIME TO BREAK THE SILENCE." ALSO IN 1998, THEN DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THABO MBEKI, STATED, "FOR TOO LONG WE HAVE CLOSED OUR EYES AS A NATION, HOPING THE TRUTH WAS NOT SO REAL. AT TIMES WE DID NOT KNOW THAT WE WERE BURYING PEOPLE WHO HAD DIED FROM AIDS. AT OTHER TIMES WE DID, BUT CHOSE TO REMAIN SILENT."

D. MOST SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HIV/AIDS. THE GAUTENG PROVINCE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONDUCTS AN AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAM, CALLED THE BEYOND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN THROUGH ITS AIDS ACTION OFFICE. THE OFFICE DISTRIBUTES LEAFLETS, IN ALL 11 SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGES, CONTAINING BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT HOW HIV IS SPREAD AND HOW TO AVOID IT. IN ADDITION, POSTERS ON KEY THEMES, RESOURCE GUIDES, AND INFORMATION BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE, PLUS RED RIBBON BADGES ARE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO AGREE TO WEAR THEM ON A DAILY BASIS. THE AIDS ACTION OFFICE ALSO PROVIDES WORKPLACE GUIDELINES ABOUT AIDS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES. THE CAPE TOWN CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS AN AIDS AWARENESS UNIT THAT PRODUCES A PAMPHLET INFORMING CITY EMPLOYEES ABOUT

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/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

HIV/AIDS AND WHAT POLICIES THE CITY FOLLOWS TOWARD INFECTED EMPLOYEES.

E. AIDS WAS NOT AN ISSUE IN THE 1999 SOUTH AFRICAN GENERAL ELECTIONS IN WHICH MR. MBEKI SUCCEEDED NELSON MANDELA AS PRESIDENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPOINTED A NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO COORDINATE AIDS PREVENTION EFFORTS, BUT THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES BECAUSE ITS MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MEDICAL, SCIENTIFIC, OR ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES OR THE NATIONAL AIDS CONSORTIUM, WHICH REPRESENTS 230 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S).

F. IN NOVEMBER 1999, PRESIDENT MBEKI SHOCKED THE AIDS COMMUNITY BY TELLING THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT THAT AZT, ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST AND BEST-KNOWN AIDS DRUGS, WAS BEING WITHHELD FROM PREGNANT MOTHERS AT STATE-RUN HOSPITALS "BECAUSE IT IS TOXIC AND IS BEING CHALLENGED IN COURT CASES IN THE UNITED STATES, UK, AND SOUTH AFRICA." IN FACT, THE DRUG HAS BEEN APPROVED BY REGULATORS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND IS WIDELY USED TO PREVENT HIV-INFECTED MOTHERS FROM PASSING THE VIRUS TO THEIR BABIES AT BIRTH. MBEKI MAY HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO AVOID CRITICISM THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO COMBAT AIDS, OR HIS ACTION MAY BE A BARGAINING PLOY TO FORCE THE DRUG COMPANIES TO LOWER THEIR PRICES. IN FACT, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT AFFORD TO PROVIDE DRUGS LIKE AZT TO EVERYONE WHO NEEDS THEM WHILE CONTINUING TO MEET THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.

4. AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE.

A. THE PARTNERSHIP AGAINST AIDS, LAUNCHED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN 1998, WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT TOGETHER TO TACKLE THE AIDS EPIDEMIC, BUT NO NATIONAL STRATEGY TO TREAT THE DISEASE AND HALT ITS SPREAD HAS EMERGED. IN THE WORKPLACE, HIV/AIDS CAUSES DECLINING PRODUCTIVITY, RISING ABSENTEEISM, LOSS OF SKILLED LABOR, INCREASED RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING COSTS, HIGH LABOR TURNOVER, AND HIGHER HEALTH CARE COSTS. IN THE FUTURE, THESE NEGATIVE FACTORS MAY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

B. VARIOUS BUSINESSES AND COMMERCIAL GROUPS ARE ADDRESSING THE AIDS CRISIS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL ON HIV-AIDS (SABCOHA) HAS BEEN FORMED TO HELP BUSINESSES CREATE AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMS. METROPOLITAN, THE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY, HAS JOINED WITH TWO MEDIA COMPANIES, INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS AND NEW AFRICA PUBLICATIONS, TO CREATE THE "AIDS: IT'S YOUR BUSINESS" INITIATIVE TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT HIV/AIDS IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR. THE SOUTH AFRICAN BREWERIES DISTRIBUTES LEAFLETS AND OTHER AIDS MATERIALS TO ITS WORKERS; THE VOLKSWAGEN PLANT IN Uitenhage near Port Elizabeth has trained 200 employees as AIDS

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PEER EDUCATORS; AND ESKOM, THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY IN SOUTH AFRICA, HAS DEVELOPED AN OUTSTANDING AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM, BUT SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSES CAN DO MORE TO EDUCATE THEIR WORKERS ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE AIDS PROBLEM.

C. THE CRITICAL MINING INDUSTRY IS AMONG THE HARDEST HIT IN SOUTH AFRICA. AN ESTIMATED 10 PERCENT OF THE WORKFORCE IS DYING EACH YEAR, WHICH IS DRIVING UP COSTS IN AN AREA ALREADY HARD HIT BY FALLING WORLD PRICES. ANGLO COAL, PART OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN GROUP, HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR ITS AWARD-WINNING AIDS EDUCATION WORK IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE IT HAS MINES.

D. LABOR UNIONS ARE NOT BEING ACTIVE ENOUGH IN PUBLICIZING THE AIDS ISSUE TO THEIR MEMBERS. THE CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS (COSATU) ADVISES ITS MEMBERS TO BE TESTED FOR HIV/AIDS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, BUT THIS IS NOT BEING DONE BECAUSE PEOPLE FEAR THEY WILL BE DROPPED BY THEIR INSURANCE COMPANIES IF THE TEST IS POSITIVE. A NEED EXISTS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY FOR MANAGEMENT AND LABOR TO COOPERATE IN PRESENTING AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO EMPLOYEES VIA A MEDIUM THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND IN LANGUAGE THAT IS CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE.

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION EFFORTS.

A. A SEPTEMBER 1999 SURVEY CONDUCTED FOR "BUSINESS DAY" NEWSPAPER BY A MARKET RESEARCH GROUP SHOWED THAT 99 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS SPANNING ALL RACE AND INCOME GROUPS AND REPRESENTING 92 PERCENT OF ALL ADULT URBAN SOUTH AFRICANS HAD HEARD OF AIDS. SLIGHTLY FEWER, 94 PERCENT, HAD HEARD OF HIV. MOST RESPONDENTS LEARNED ABOUT THE DISEASE FROM RADIO AND TELEVISION (81 PERCENT), NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES (42 PERCENT), AND TALKS GIVEN TO THEIR COMMUNITIES (20 PERCENT). WORD OF MOUTH AND COMMUNITY TALKS WERE MORE IMPORTANT AMONG POORER, LESS-SOPHISTICATED COMMUNITIES. AMONG THE LESS FREQUENT SOURCES OF INFORMATION WERE CLINICS, DOCTOR OFFICES, AND WORK, ALL UNDER 10 PERCENT. TWENTY-FOUR PERCENT CLAIMED TO KNOW SOMEONE AFFLICTED WITH HIV/AIDS PERSONALLY. HALF EXPECTED SOMEONE THEY KNEW WOULD BECOME INFECTED WITHIN THE NEXT 5 YEARS.

B. SOUTH AFRICA'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS CARRY ARTICLES ABOUT AIDS ON WORLD AIDS DAY EVERY YEAR, BUT OTHERWISE DO NOT GIVE IT EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. ONLY "SOWETAN," A NEWSPAPER WITH A CIRCULATION OF 1.5 MILLION AND THE MOST WIDELY READ AMONG BLACKS, GIVES THE DISEASE FREQUENT COVERAGE. ON WORLD AIDS DAY IN 1999, "SOWETAN" CARRIED A SEVEN-PAGE SECTION DEVOTED TO AIDS AWARENESS. THE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHES AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN, "JUST CALL ME LUCKY," THAT DISCUSSES AIDS-RELATED SUBJECTS AND IS WRITTEN BY HIV-POSITIVE REPORTER, LUCKY MAZIBUKO. DURING NATIONAL AIDS CONDOM WEEK, 14-20 FEBRUARY, THE NEWSPAPER PUBLICIZED AIDS

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 *****/
AWARENESS WITH THE SLOGAN "BRING BACK LOVE, FIGHT BACK AIDS." IN

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ITS VALENTINE'S DAY ISSUE, "SOWETAN" PUBLISHED SAMPLE VALENTINES FOR ITS READERS SAYING, "BE MY VALENTINE. DON'T BREAK MY HEART. CONDOMS KEEP LOVERS SAFE," AND "IT'S YOUR CHOICE: LOVE ONLY ONE PARTNER. GOOD FRIENDS, NO SEX. SEX WITH MANY PEOPLE? USE CONDOMS. SAFE SEX SAVES LIVES."

C. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT HIV/AIDS IS SPREAD THROUGH HAVING UNPROTECTED SEX. THE FIRST INFECTIONS IN THE EARLY 1980'S OCCURRED IN THE HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY, BUT SINCE THEN THE VAST MAJORITY OF INFECTIONS HAVE RESULTED FROM UNPROTECTED HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONS. SINCE THERE IS NO CURE FOR AIDS, EDUCATION EFFORTS HAVE EMPHASIZED PREVENTION OF THE DISEASE THROUGH ABSTINENCE, MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIPS, OR CONDOM USE. IN A CULTURE LIKE SOUTH AFRICA'S WHERE POLYGAMY IS COMMON AND MALE PROMISCUITY IS ADMIRER, THE FIRST TWO OPTIONS ARE UNREALISTIC, SO THE THIRD, THE NEED TO USE A CONDOM DURING SEX, IS THE MOST WIDESPREAD AIDS EDUCATION MESSAGE. VARIOUS SLOGANS ADVOCATING CONDOM USE APPEAR IN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS, ON BILLBOARDS, IN RADIO AND TELEVISION ADS, AND ON STICKERS THAT ARE DISPLAYED VIRTUALLY EVERYWHERE. THE MOST COMMON CONDOM SLOGANS ARE

--"PREVENT AIDS. PUT ONE ON."

--"SAFE SEX SAVES LIVES. USE A CONDOM."

--"CONDOMS KEEP LOVERS SAFE."

--"CARE FOR ME. I CARE FOR YOU."

THE UNIVERSAL AFRICAN-LANGUAGE TRANSLATION FOR "USE A CONDOM" IS "SEBENZISA ICONDOM."

D. CONDOMS ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE AT PHARMACIES, WORK PLACES, AND HEALTH CENTERS BUT ARE NOT DISTRIBUTED IN SCHOOLS. ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS, SUCH AS WORLD AIDS DAY, PEOPLE DRESSED AS CONDOMS HAND OUT FREE CONDOMS AND PAMPHLETS CONTAINING EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THEIR USE. OCCASIONALLY, DOUBLE ENTENDRE SLOGANS ARE USED SUCH AS ONE ON A STICKER WITH "COME ALIVE" WRITTEN ON A PICTURE OF A CONDOM. CONDOM ADS ALWAYS INCLUDE THE RED RIBBON SYMBOL OF AIDS AWARENESS AND THE AIDS HELPLINE TELEPHONE NUMBER, 0800-012-322.

E. MUSICIANS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT AIDS. AN ORGANIZATION CALLED AFRICAN MUSICIANS AGAINST HIV-AIDS (AMAHA) HAS BEEN FORMED TO PRESENT FREE CONCERTS AROUND THE COUNTRY IN WHICH CONDOMS, LEAFLETS, AND RED RIBBONS ARE HANDED OUT. SOME OF THE GROUPS AND PERFORMING ARTISTS WHO APPEAR AT THESE CONCERTS INCLUDE BAYETE, BOOM SHAKA, BONGO MAFFIN, FAMILY FACTORY, SKEEM, BLONDIE MAKHENE, AND REBECCA MALOPE. AN ANNUAL AIDS TELETHON IS TELECAST BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY (SABC). THE AIDS AWARENESS MESSAGE IS ALSO SPREAD BY DISC JOCKEYS ON LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AND DURING INFORMAL STREET PARTIES AND BY ACTORS AND ACTRESSES THROUGH COMMUNITY DRAMA PRESENTATIONS.

F. DESPITE THE WIDESPREAD URGINGS TO USE CONDOMS FROM TOP PEOPLE

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IN SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC LIFE--ENTERTAINERS, POLITICIANS, AND SPORTSMEN--ACTUAL USE DURING SEX IS LIMITED. IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN CULTURE, THE LOBOLA SYSTEM WHERE MEN "PURCHASE" THEIR WIVES THROUGH PAYMENT OF A DOWRY OF CASH OR LIVESTOCK TO THEIR IN-LAWS PUTS WOMEN IN A SUBSERVIENT POSITION. FOR A WOMAN TO ASK HER PARTNER TO WEAR PROTECTION IS TO RISK AN ARGUMENT OR A BEATING. EVEN NURSES WHO KNOW THEIR HUSBANDS ARE INFECTED ARE RELUCTANT TO ASK THEM TO WEAR CONDOMS. MEN DO NOT LIKE TO WEAR CONDOMS, SAYING THAT THEY INTERFERE WITH THE FEELING OF SEX. MEN MAKE JOKES ABOUT CONDOM USE, ASKING "HOW CAN ONE EAT CANDY WHEN IT'S STILL IN THE WRAPPER?" AND "HOW CAN I TAKE A SHOWER WITH A RAINCOAT ON?" WHILE MALE PROMISCUITY IS ACCEPTED, FEMALES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FAITHFUL; SO A WOMAN WHO REQUESTS THAT A MAN USE A CONDOM RUNS THE RISK OF BEING CALLED A PROSTITUTE.

6. AIDS MYTHS AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS.

A. MANY AFRICANS BELIEVE THAT U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE PUBLICIZED HIV/AIDS CONCERNS AS A SCARE TACTIC DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE POPULATION OF AFRICA BY MAKING AFRICANS WEAR CONDOMS DURING INTERCOURSE. A STANDARD SOUTH AFRICAN JOKE IS THAT AIDS STANDS FOR AMERICAN IDEAS TO DISCOURAGE SEX. IN THE 1980'S, THE SOVIET UNION GENERATED A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN ACCUSING THE UNITED STATES OF DEVELOPING HIV AT FORT DETRICK, MD, AS A BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENT DESIGNED TO KILL AFRICANS. THESE AND OTHER AIDS MYTHS AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS HAVE BEEN PUBLICIZED FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN THE PAGES OF THE "NEW AFRICAN" MAGAZINE, WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN LONDON AND EDITED BY THE GHANA-BORN BAFFOUR ANKOMAH. MR. ANKOMAH QUESTIONS WHETHER AIDS EXISTS AND CLAIMS THAT TESTING PROCEDURES ARE INADEQUATE AND INEFFICIENT. HE SAYS THAT AIDS STATISTICS ARE WILDLY EXAGGERATED AND THAT DEATHS CAUSED BY MALNUTRITION, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA ARE BEING ATTRIBUTED TO AIDS. HE STATES THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO TRANSMIT AIDS SEXUALLY AND THAT NOT ENOUGH EMPHASIS IS GIVEN TO TRANSMISSION OF THE DISEASE THROUGH BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS AND INFECTED NEEDLES. MR. ANKOMAH ALSO CLAIMS THAT THE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN "AIDS ESTABLISHMENT" BLAMES AFRICA FOR THE ORIGINS OF THE DISEASE TO HIDE THE INADVERTENT INTRODUCTION OF THE HIV VIRUS TO AFRICANS DURING POLIO VACCINE TRIALS CONDUCTED BY THE PHILADELPHIA-BASED WISTAR INSTITUTE IN CONGO, RWANDA, AND BURUNDI BETWEEN 1957 AND 1960.

B. MR. ANKOMAH EDITS HIS MAGAZINE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AFRICA, WHERE AIDS HAS NOT BECOME A MAJOR HEALTH ISSUE, AND HIS

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AUDIENCE IS LARGELY AFRICANS RESIDING IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MANY SOUTH AFRICANS ARE INFLUENCED BY THE OPINIONS EXTES. IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MANY SOUTH AFRICANS ARE INFLUENCED BY

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THE OPINIONS EXTES. IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MANY SOUTH AFRICANS ARE INFLUENCED BY THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE "NEW AFRICAN" MAGAZINE, BUT SOME OF THEM SURELY RESONATE IN JOHANNESBURG. AIDS LENDS ITSELF TO CONSPIRACY THEORIES BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF ITS ORIGIN AND THE SECRECY THAT SURROUNDS PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM IT. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE FRIGHTENING STATISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH AIDS ARE QUESTIONED BY MR. ANKOMAH AND OTHERS. AFRICA IS A CONTINENT WHERE PRECISE FIGURESSTIONED BY MR. ANKOMAH AND OTHERS. AFRICA IS A CONTINENT WHERE PRECISE FIGURESSTIONED BY MR. ANKOMAH AND OTHERS. AFRICA IS A CONTINENT WHERE PRECISE FIGURES FOR ANYTHING ARE HARD TO COME BY.

C. SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE THEIR OWN AIDS MYTHS. MANY BLAME THE DISEASE ON THE MINORITY APARTHEID GOVERNMENT THAT CARRIED ON A SECRET BIOLOGICAL WARFARE CAMPAIGN AGAINST BLACKS INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR MAJORITY RULE. SOUTH AFRICANS COMMONLY BELIEVE THAT BEWITCHING CAUSES AIDS, THAT THEIR TRIBAL ANCESTORS ARE UNHAPPY WITH THEM AND HAVE SENT AIDS AS PUNISHMENT, AND THAT RACIST WHITES HAVE INJECTED ORANGES AND BANANAS WITH THE DISEASE.

D. SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT ONLY PROSTITUTES GET AIDS. MEN CLAIM THAT THIN WOMEN ARE THE EXCLUSIVE TRANSMITTERS OF AIDS, SO THEY ONLY HAVE SEX WITH FAT WOMEN. SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN BELIEVE THEY CAN GET RID OF AIDS BY GIVING IT BACK TO--THAT IS, HAVING SEX WITH--THE SOURCE OF THEIR INFECTION. ONE WIDESPREAD BELIEF AMONG MEN IS THAT THEY WILL BE CURED OF AIDS IF THEY HAVE SEX WITH A VIRGIN.

A. IN MANY PARTS OF AFRICA, SEX AND DEATH ARE TWO SUBJECTS THAT ARE HIGHLY TABOO. WHEN THEY ARE DISCUSSED, IT IS IN SUBTLE, INDIRECT LANGUAGE. TO TALK ABOUT SOMEONE'S DEATH IS TANTAMOUNT TO WISHING HIM OR HER DEAD IN A CULTURE THAT BELIEVES IN WITCHCRAFT. IT SIMPLY IS NOT DONE OPENLY. THEREFORE, AIDS VICTIMS WHO ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS IN PUBLIC HOW THEY WERE INFECTED, HOW TO PREVENT BECOMING INFECTED, AND WHAT THEIR PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE ARE, ARE EXCEEDINGLY RARE. THOSE WHO INFORM THEIR PARTNERS OR THEIR FAMILIES ARE OFTEN REJECTED, BEATEN, AND THROWN OUT OF THE HOUSE. THOSE WHO ADMIT THEIR CONDITION IN PUBLIC CAN LOSE THEIR JOBS, AND OCCASIONALLY, SOME ARE KILLED BY MOBS. THE SHAME, FEAR, DISCRIMINATION, AND ISOLATION FELT BY PEOPLE WITH AIDS ARE OVERWHELMING. THE DISGRACE OF BEING DIAGNOSED HIV POSITIVE IS SO GREAT THAT SPECIAL FACILITIES DESIGNATED TO TREAT PEOPLE WITH AIDS REMAIN EMPTY. PEOPLE DO NOT VOLUNTEER TO DONATE BLOOD BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT TO DISCOVER THEIR HIV STATUS. MOST MEDICAL PERSONNEL DO NOT INFORM PATIENTS OF THEIR HIV DIAGNOSIS UNLESS THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY ASKED, WHICH RARELY HAPPENS. MANY PEOPLE CARING FOR SOMEONE WITH AIDS REFUSE TO ADMIT THAT THEY ARE

6/8/2015

UNCLASSIFIED//

NURSING SOMEONE WITH THE DISEASE, AND THE PATIENTS THEMSELVES TELL NO ONE. NOT SURPRISINGLY, PEOPLE WHO TEST HIV POSITIVE TEND TO SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION, ABUSE ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, AND BECOME SUICIDAL.

B. SOME CHURCH GROUPS DISCRIMINATE AGAINST PEOPLE WITH WEIGHT LOSS, SWOLLEN GLANDS, OR ASTHMA, SIGNS THAT THEY MIGHT BE INFECTED. ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OPPOSITION TO ALL FORMS OF BIRTH CONTROL COMPLICATES EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CONDOM USE AMONG CATHOLICS. ONE CONGREGATION, ST. ANTHONY'S, IN LANGA NEAR CAPE TOWN, ADDRESSES THE AIDS PROBLEM BY HOLDING REGULAR REMEMBRANCE SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED OF AIDS. THE CHURCH ALSO EMPLOYS TWO FULL-TIME COUNSELORS WHO SPEAK TO PARISHIONERS ABOUT THEIR CONCERNS AND PUBLISHES A REGULAR BULLETIN WHERE AIDS ISSUES ARE OPENLY DISCUSSED. NO MOSQUES SPONSOR AIDS SUPPORT GROUPS, AND MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE MUSLIM JUDICIAL COUNCIL DENY THAT ANY SOUTH AFRICAN MUSLIMS ARE INFECTED WITH HIV.

C. YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR TWENTIES, THE "LOST GENERATION" OF TOWNSHIP YOUTHS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR EDUCATION IN ORDER TO OVERTHROW THE APARTHEID SYSTEM, ARE ONE OF THE MOST HEAVILY INFECTED GROUPS. UNEMPLOYED AND ANGRY BECAUSE THEIR HIGH EXPECTATIONS THAT FREEDOM WOULD BRING OPPORTUNITIES ARE UNFULFILLED, THESE INDIVIDUALS PURPOSELY SPREAD THE DISEASE TO AS MANY PARTNERS AS POSSIBLE, OFTEN THROUGH RAPE. IT IS AS IF BY INFECTING OTHERS THE YOUTHS ARE REACHING OUT TO SHARE THEIR FEELINGS OF ANGER AND HOPELESSNESS.

D. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IS AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO REMOVING THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH BEING INFECTED. ONE OF ITS SLOGANS IS "MY FRIEND WITH AIDS IS STILL MY FRIEND." THE GROUP CONDUCTS A CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE "DISCLOSURE AND ACCEPTANCE" OF THE DISEASE THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA. MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION SPEAK TO GROUPS AND TAKE PART IN AIDS AWARENESS PRESENTATIONS IN THE MEDIA. WHITES FIND IT EASIER TO SPEAK OPENLY ABOUT THEIR HIV STATUS THAN BLACKS BECAUSE THERE IS LESS OF A STIGMA ATTACHED TO AIDS IN THE WHITE COMMUNITY. BLACKS WHO WISH TO BE OPEN ABOUT THEIR STATUS ARE COUNSELED BEFOREHAND SO THAT THEY TRULY UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOING PUBLIC.

8. AIDS AND THE SANDF.

A. IN A DECEMBER 1998 ARTICLE IN THE "FINANCIAL MAIL" MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN JOHANNESBURG, AN INSURANCE COMPANY AIDS RESEARCHER ESTIMATED THAT 40 PERCENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE (SANDF) SOLDIERS ARE HIV POSITIVE. THIS FIGURE WAS DISPUTED BY THE ACTING SURGEON GENERAL OF THE SANDF, BUT TYPICALLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THE INFECTION RATE OF MILITARY MEMBERS IS TWO TO FIVE TIMES THAT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION. THIS IS DUE TO SOLDIERS BEING IN THE PRIME OF LIFE, PHYSICALLY FIT, AWAY FROM

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HOME, AND SURROUNDED BY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CASUAL SEX. IN ADDITION, PEER PRESSURE IS HIGH IN THE MILITARY ENVIRONMENT AND CAN ENCOURAGE RISK-TAKING BEHAVIOR. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, SOLDIERS CONSTITUTE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE SUSCEPTIBLE TO PREVENTIVE AIDS EDUCATION MEASURES.

B. APPLICANTS TO THE SANDF ARE TESTED FOR HIV. ANYONE TESTING POSITIVE IS NOT ADMITTED TO THE SERVICE. SOLDIERS ARE NOT TESTED AGAIN UNLESS THEY ARE TO BE SENT ABROAD ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. IN THE PAST, SOLDIERS WISHING TO EXTEND THEIR SERVICE BEYOND INITIAL ENLISTMENT WERE TESTED, BUT THIS WAS DISCONTINUED SINCE IT LOOKED AS IF PEOPLE WERE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IF THEY HAD THE VIRUS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT FELT THIS POLICY SET A BAD PRECEDENT FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYERS.

C. THE SANDF RUNS A COMPREHENSIVE AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST IN AFRICA. IT INCLUDES PREEMPLOYMENT COUNSELING, FREQUENT AIDS EDUCATION, TARGETED COUNSELING ABOUT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES, AND FREE CONDOM DISTRIBUTION. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN LOWERING THE INCIDENCE OF HIV/AIDS IN THE SANDF.

9. CONCLUSION. AIDS IS A SILENT KILLER. OVER 600 ORGANIZATIONS AND THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS ARE FIGHTING AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THESE PEOPLE ARE DOING A GOOD JOB OF PUBLICIZING THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC AND OF INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT WHAT CAUSES AIDS AND WHAT STEPS TO TAKE TO AVOID BEING INFECTED WITH HIV, BUT THE BEHAVIORAL CHANGES NEEDED TO RETARD THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE ARE SLOW IN COMING. IF THE STIGMA ATTACHED TO BEING HIV POSITIVE IS TO BE LIFTED AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC REVERSED, THEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE LEADERSHIP, MUST BECOME MORE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS DISEASE. AN AIDS VACCINE MAY BE AVAILABLE IN 8-10 YEARS, BUT A VACCINE IS NOT A CURE. IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF MEDICINE THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A CURE FOR A VIRUS. AND THE AIDS VIRUS MUTATES SO RAPIDLY THAT ANY VACCINE WOULD HAVE TO BE MODIFIED MORE FREQUENTLY THAN IS THE CASE WITH THE CURRENT INFLUENZA VACCINE. THE COST OF MEDICINES THAT TREAT HIV/AIDS IS BEYOND THE REACH OF MOST SOUTH AFRICANS. THE MOST RATIONAL POLICY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW IS TO NEGOTIATE LOWER PRICES WITH THE DRUG COMPANIES WHILE SHARPENING ITS FOCUS ON AIDS EDUCATION, PREVENTION OF INFECTION BY SAFE SEX, AND CARE FOR AIDS ORPHANS.

10. THE INFORMATION CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS SPA IS 24 FEBRUARY 2000.

11. THE POC FOR THIS SPA IS (b)(3) (10 U.S.C. § 130b), (b)(6) 4TH PSYOP GP (ABN), FT. BRAGG, NC 28310, (b)(3) (10 U.S.C. § 130b), (b)(6)

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12. THIS SPA WILL BE POSTED TO THE 4TH PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS GROUP'S HOME PAGE ON INTELINK-S (WWW.POAS.SOCOM.SMIL.MIL) AND ON INTELINK (WWW.SOCOM.IC.GOV/4POG).//

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